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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*m/**Guadeloupe*

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION AND LIAISON

TO: Mr. Richard Hall  
DSN, Department of Interior

FROM: Eric Fischer, Acting Chief, Territorial Studies Section,  
Division of Map Intelligence and Cartography

SUBJECT: Administrative Divisions of Guadeloupe  
MI INFORMATION NOTE NO: 14  
DATED JANUARY 9, 1947

Guadeloupe is a department of metropolitan France, but is administered by the Ministry for France Overseas, which replaced the previous Ministry for the Colonies. The laws of metropolitan France are gradually to supersede separate colonial ordinances; the process to be completed by the end of June 1947.

In the course of the reorganization the following decree was issued.

Décret no 46639 du 6 avril 1946 portant création des conseils de prud'hommes à la Guadeloupe. (Decree no 46639 of April 6, 1946 referring to the establishment of councils of notables in Guadeloupe).

Article 2 reads: La juridiction du conseil de Point-à-Pitre s'étendra à l'arrondissement administratif de Point-à-Pitre. (The jurisdiction of the council of Point-à-Pitre will extend over the administrative area of the arrondissement of Point-à-Pitre).

La juridiction du conseil de Basse-Terre s'étendra à l'arrondissement administratif de Basse-Terre. (The jurisdiction of the council of Basse-Terre will extend over the administrative area of the arrondissement of Basse-Terre).

La juridiction du conseil de Grand-Bourg s'étendra aux communes de l'île de Marie Galante. (The jurisdiction of the council of Grand-Bourg will extend over the communes of the island of Marie Galante).

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There are 11 cantons in the department of Guadeloupe; 5 belong to the arrondissement of Point-à-Pitre and 5 to Basse-Terre. The obvious inference is that the island of Marie Galante is one canton organized in most respects like an arrondissement but without the title. It was formerly an arrondissement as well as a canton.

The smaller islands of Marie Galante, La Désirade, Les Saintes, Le Barthélemy, and the French half of St. Martin are called dependancies. Le Barthélemy and the French half of St. Martin were formerly two of the cantons of the arrondissement Basse-Terre. Les Saintes was a part of the main island canton Capesterre, arrondissement of Basse-Terre. The same relationship existed between the island Désirade, and the canton St. François, arrondissement Point-à-Pitre. There is no indication that these relationships have been changed.

cc: ICD  
Mr. Voskuil

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